

DAILY BULLETIN

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COALITION BUILDING NEW ARMY AND POLICE FORCE IN IRAQ, BUSH SAYS

First army battalion is milestone in returning government to Iraqi people

The Coalition is making steady progress in building a new army and police force for Iraq, President George W. Bush said in his weekly radio address to the nation on October 4.

The first battalion of the new army completed its training this week, Bush said, and it will be joined by a 40,000-member military force in less than a year. Bush pointed out that 80,000 other Iraqis are already helping protect their country, more than half of whom are police officers.

The U.S. has committed \$5 thousand million for Iraqi security, according to Bush. "These funds will be used to prepare the Iraqi army, to train public safety and emergency personnel, and to establish a fair and effective judicial system," he said.

Following is the transcript of President Bush's Radio Address to the Nation for October 4, 2003:

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This weekend in Iraq, 750 Iraqi citizens completed their military training and became the first battalion of the new Iraqi army. For decades, Iraq's army served the interests of a dictator. Today a new army is serving the Iraqi people. And less than a year from now, Iraq will have a 40,000-member military force, trained and dedicated to protecting their fellow citizens.

Our coalition is helping to train and equip Iraq's new army, so that Iraqis can take over border protection and other security duties as soon as possible. Soldiers in the new battalion join more than 80,000 other Iraqis who are defending their country's security. Iraq now has a Civil Defense Corps of nearly 2,500, a border guard force of 4,700, and a facility protection service of over 12,000. And more than half of the Iraqis under arms are police officers, instructed by professionals like New York City's outstanding former police chief, Bernard Kerik. Iraq's neighbor, Jordan, has announced that it will help Iraq train additional police officers.

For three decades, the police in Iraq were the feared enforcers of a dictatorship. Now Iraq's new police are enforcing the just laws of an emerging democracy. Already the Iraqi police are assuming greater responsibility, and greater risks. This week, Iraqi officers aided a series of joint raids by American troops, leading to the arrest of more than 50 suspected criminals and terrorists. We're on the offensive against the desperate holdouts and Saddam loyalists who oppose progress in Iraq. The free nation we are helping to build will be free of them.

The United States is standing with the Iraqi people as they move toward self-government. My wartime funding request to Congress includes more than \$5 billion [thousand million] to help the people of Iraq take responsibility for their own security. These funds will be used to prepare the Iraqi army, to train public safety and emergency personnel, and to establish a fair and effective judicial system.

Greater security is essential to Iraq's future. A secure Iraq will protect the nation's schools, and the hospitals that are opening, and the roads that are being built, and the water and power facilities we are repairing. Across Iraq, our coalition is turning over responsibility to the future leaders of that country. Those leaders include women. Just this weekend, a conference is being held at the University of Babylon to affirm the vital role of women in the Iraqi society.

The transition to self-government is a complicated process, because it takes time to build trust and hope after decades of oppression and fear. Yet we are making steady progress, and we will keep our promise to fully return Iraq's government to Iraq's people as soon as possible.

The men and women of our coalition have shown bravery and skill and compassion in Iraq. And they know

their mission. They know that we are fighting terrorists in Iraq so that we will not have to face them and fight them in the streets of our own cities. Our forces know that a secure and sovereign Iraq will be a setback for terrorists, and an inspiration to all who dream of freedom in the Middle East. And the world can be certain, this essential mission in the war on terror will be completed.

Thank you for listening.

USAID ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS REPORTS ON EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN IRAQ

Describes preparations for new school year that starts October 4

USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, at an October 3 briefing at the State Department, announced the establishment of a university partnership program to pair Iraqi universities with schools in the United States and Europe.

Natsios said this new program takes shape as more than five million Iraqi students begin the new academic year on October 4. Many of those students will find themselves in one of the 1,595 refurbished schools, Natsios said. He said secondary school students will be receiving 1.5 million student supply kits to help address their scholastic needs.

In association with UNESCO, UNICEF and the Iraqi Ministry of Education, USAID has worked to produce new textbooks. "Only one kid in six in Iraq had textbooks prior to the war," Natsios said, "and most of them were, like 20 years old, or 15 years old, they're falling apart. I've seen some of them. And so these are the first texts many kids have ever seen in school."

USAID is also working with school administrators and teachers to develop more consultative administrative systems and more flexible pedagogic methods.

"In autocratic, and particularly totalitarian societies, the system is highly centralized, and literally everybody will be on the same page of the book in every school in the whole country on the same day," Natsios said. "If kids were more interested in this subject than others, it is completely irrelevant. You have to be on this page for

this hour of the day. That is not a helpful way of tying what you're teaching to the needs of the children."

The current training programs seek to create a classroom environment where "the kids don't just learn by rote. They have to reason their way through and use critical reasoning. And these techniques improve the quality of education, regardless of what the subject matter is," Natsios said.

U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN

Negroponte says 15-nation mission will begin October 31

By Judy Aita

Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- The Security Council will undertake a mission to Afghanistan at the end of the month to review security, humanitarian relief, reconstruction, human rights, and political activities in the country, U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte announced October 6. A major objective of the mission will be "to underscore the international community's unwavering commitment to the peace and reconstruction process in Afghanistan and to promote further international and regional support to this end," said Negroponte, who is president of the Security Council for the month of October. "The members of the Security Council have decided to send a mission to Afghanistan. The visit will take place from 31 October to 8 November 2003. The mission will visit Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, and Mazar-i-Sharif," Negroponte said in a letter to Secretary General Kofi Annan. At the invitation of Pakistan, the mission will also visit Islamabad for briefings and consultations, he said. The mission will also "convey a strong message to regional and factional leaders about the need to reject all violence; condemn extremist, terrorist and illegal drug activities; ensure public order and safety; promote inter-ethnic reconciliation and support the implementation of the Bonn Agreement; and to fully cooperate with the Afghan Transitional Administration," Negroponte said. The mission will also review the progress of the Afghan Transitional Administration in implementing the Bonn Agreement on security reform; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; and the election process. It will also observe operations of the U.N. Assistance Mission

in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in preparing for elections and coordinating all U.N. activities and operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF), the Security Council president said. Ambassador Gunter Pleuger of Germany will head the mission. All 15 members of the Security Council will participate in the mission. Most nations will be represented by their chief envoy to the United Nations. Negroponte will be a member of the mission as will U.K. Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov, French Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere, Bulgarian Ambassador Stefan Tafrov, Chilean Ambassador Heraldo Munoz, Mexican Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram, and Spanish Ambassador Inocencio Arias. Representatives of Angola, Cameroon, China, Guinea, and Syria will also be on the mission.

ENERGY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES NEW ULTRA-CLEAN FUEL PLANT

Synthetic fuel will reduce heavy-truck emissions by 95 percent

The Department of Energy (DOE) has dedicated a new facility that will produce ultra-clean synthetic transportation fuel that could reduce emissions from diesel engines and gasoline heavy trucks by as much as 95 percent, according an October 3 press release.

The National Energy Technology Laboratory, located near Tulsa, Oklahoma, will produce approximately 4,000 gallons of high-performance, sulfur-free transportation fuel per day from 1 million cubic feet of natural gas, DOE said.

The Oklahoma facility, a public-private partnership, comes on line as diesel engine and truck manufacturers face new regulations that call for reducing the sulfur content in diesel fuel by 97 percent, which will result in the cleanest-running heavy trucks and buses in history.

Following is the text of the Department of Energy's press release:

October 3, 2003

Ultra-Clean Transportation Fuels Plant Is Step Toward Reduced Vehicle Emissions

Washington, D.C. Metro Buses, National Park Service Vehicles Will Test Fuels

Washington, DC -- The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the dedication of a facility that will pioneer a new generation of ultra-clean transportation fuels to significantly reduce tailpipe emissions from cars, trucks and buses.

Designed and constructed under the Ultra-Clean Fuels Program, managed by DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory, the newly constructed natural gas-to-liquids demonstration facility near Tulsa, Oklahoma, is scheduled to begin production in early November. It will produce approximately 4,000 gallons of high-performance, sulfur free, environmentally friendly transportation fuel per day from 1 million cubic feet of natural gas.

"This is a perfect illustration of how government and industry can work together to develop new technologies to meet the Nation's environmental objectives," said Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham.

"As the Nation's automakers and fuel suppliers face tighter diesel emission standards in the next few years, the Energy Department is putting federal research dollars to work towards the goal of cleaner air."

Fuel from the facility will be tested in buses operated by the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the National Park Service in Denali, Alaska.

The plant was built under a cooperative agreement among DOE, Syntroleum Corp., Marathon Oil Co. and Integrated Concepts Research Corp. (ICRC). Plant construction costs are valued at over \$40 million, of which DOE provided \$16 million on a cost-share basis.

Other participants in the project include the Department of Defense, National Park Service, WMATA, Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan Automotive Laboratory, West Virginia University, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, and TIAX Inc. Daimler-Chrysler Corp. and Volkswagen of America are participating in the demonstration of engines and emission control systems

calibrated to use the project's synthetic fuel.

The new facility will utilize the proprietary Syntroleum Process to convert natural gas to transportation fuel. The plant consists of three primary components: an autothermal reformer that changes the natural gas into synthesis gas; a Fischer-Tropsch unit that converts the synthesis gas into synthetic crude oil; and a refining unit that upgrades the synthetic crude to finished synthetic diesel.

The new Oklahoma ultra-clean fuels facility comes online at a time diesel engine manufacturers and fuel suppliers are soon to be challenged with meeting a new set of stringent Environmental Protection Agency emissions standards. New regulations call for reducing the sulfur content in diesel fuel by 97 percent, providing for the cleanest-running heavy-duty trucks and buses in history.

By addressing diesel fuel and engines together as a single system, harmful emissions from diesel and gasoline heavy trucks and buses will be reduced up to 95 percent. Diesel engine manufacturers will have flexibility to meet the new standards through a phase-in approach between 2007 and 2010.

DOE's Ultra-Clean Fuels Program is developing a well-to-wheels analysis for an eventual substitution of conventional fuels with natural gas-derived ultra-clean fuels. In addition to studying the transportation uses, the program is examining the feasibility of using them in conventional and advanced stationary power plants suitable for rural Alaska. The production process and fuels also have advantages for military applications, including the ability to produce fuel closer to the location of military operations than has been possible in the past.

Other applications of the ultra-clean fuels include in jet engines, construction equipment, and railroad locomotives.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select "Washington File" from the drop-down menu under "News."